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In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An imaging coil comprising:
a plurality of end rings;
at least one circumferentially conductive center ring extending parallel to
and coupled between said plurality of end rings; and
a plurality of legs coupled between said plurality of end rings and said at
least one center ring;
said plurality of end rings having a first radius greater than a second
radius of said center ring.
2. (Original) A coil as in claim 1 wherein at least one of said
plurality of end rings is elevated.
3. (Original) A coil as in claim 1 wherein said first radius is
approximately 1.0cm greater in length than said second radius.
4. (Original) A coil as in claim 1 wherein said first radius is
approximately 31.5cm.
5. (Original) A coil as in claim 1 wherein said second radius is
approximately 30.5cm.
6. (Original) A coil as in claim 1 wherein said plurality of legs
comprises more than 16 legs.
7. (Original) A coil as in claim 1 further comprising a plurality of
capacitor groupings coupled along said plurality of end rings, each capacitor

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grouping comprising a plurality of capacitors having a coverage area with a width approximately greater than 5.0cm.

8. (Original) A coil as in claim 1 wherein said at least one center ring is coupled to a ground reference and has low impedance such that said at least one center ring is effectively shorted to said ground reference.

9. (Original) A coil as in claim 1 wherein said plurality of end rings, at least one center ring, and said plurality of legs are configured to form a birdcage style imaging coil.

10. (Currently Amended) An imaging coil comprising:
a plurality of end rings;
at least one circumferentially conductive center ring extending parallel to and coupled between said plurality of end rings; and
a plurality of legs coupled between said plurality of end rings and said at least one center ring, said plurality of legs comprising ~~more than 16 legs;~~
a first series of legs coupled between a first end ring and said at least one center ring; and
a second series of legs coupled between a second end ring and said at least one center ring.

11. (Original) A coil as in claim 10 wherein said plurality of end rings, at least one center ring, and said plurality of legs are configured to form a birdcage style imaging coil.

12. (Original) An imaging coil comprising:
a plurality of end rings;

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at least one center ring extending parallel to and coupled between said plurality of end rings;

a plurality of legs coupled between said plurality of end rings and said at least one center ring; and

a plurality of capacitor groupings coupled along said plurality of end rings, each capacitor grouping comprising a plurality of capacitors having a coverage area with a width greater than 5.0cm.

13. (Original) A coil as in claim 12 wherein said plurality of end rings, at least one center ring, said plurality of legs, and plurality of capacitor groupings are configured to form a birdcage style imaging coil.

14. (Original) An imaging coil comprising:

a plurality of end rings;

at least one center ring extending parallel to and coupled between said plurality of end rings, said at least one center ring coupled to a ground reference and having low impedance such that said center ring is effectively shorted to said ground reference; and

a plurality of legs coupled between said plurality of end rings and said at least one center ring.

15. (Original) A coil as in claim 14 wherein said plurality of end rings, at least one center ring, and said plurality of legs are configured to form a birdcage style imaging coil.

16. (Original) A coil as in claim 14 wherein said at least one center ring comprises a plurality of capacitors having low impedance.

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17. (Original) A coil as in claim 16 wherein said plurality of capacitors have low impedance at frequency levels of approximately greater than or equal to 120MHz.

18. (Original) A coil as in claim 14 wherein said plurality of end rings are driven via a plurality of balun-less drive cables.

19. (Currently Amended) A magnetic resonance imaging system having a patient bore, said system comprising:

a radio frequency shield; and

an imaging coil comprising;

a plurality of end rings;

at least one center ring extending parallel to and coupled between said plurality of end rings, at least one of said at least one center ring comprising a plurality of capacitors and a plurality of connections therebetween; and

a plurality of legs coupled between said plurality of end rings and said at least one center ring;

said plurality of end rings having a first radius greater than a second radius of said center ring.

20. (Original) A coil as in claim 19 further comprising a driver coupled to said plurality of end rings via balun-less drive cables.

21. (Original) A coil as in claim 19 wherein said plurality of end rings are closer to said radio frequency shield than said at least one center ring.

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22. (Original) A coil as in claim 19 wherein said plurality of end rings are farther away from the patient bore than said at least one center ring.

23. (Original) A coil as in claim 19 wherein said plurality of legs comprises more than 16 legs.

24. (Original) A coil as in claim 19 further comprising a plurality of capacitor groupings coupled along said plurality of end rings, each capacitor grouping comprising a plurality of capacitors having a coverage area with a width greater than 5.0cm.

25. (Original) A coil as in claim 19 wherein said at least one center ring is coupled to a ground reference and has low impedance such that said at least one center ring is effectively shorted to said ground reference.

26. (New) An imaging coil as in claim 12 wherein said capacitors are longitudinally spread out to form said coverage area.